

Message Text

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62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024946

FOLLOWING REPEAT USDAO ROME 310925Z DEC 75 ACTION CNO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT COMSUBGRU EIGHT NAPLES COMFAIRMED NAPLES
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK 31 DECEMBER 75.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 2533 DEC 75

CNO FOR OP-02 AND OP-61/COMNAVSEASYS COM FOR CODE 08

SUBJ: NPW VISITS TO MEDITERRANEAN(U)

A. SECSTATE MSG 294701 DTG 132223Z DEC 75(NOTAL)

B. CINCUSNAVEUR 031128Z DEC 75(NOTAL)

C. OPNAVINST C3000.8C DTD 9 SEP 74 - CH 6

D. CNO 172105Z SEP 74(NOTAL)

1.(C) REF A ADVISED THAT NIMITZ, CALIFORNIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA
ARE SCHEDULED FOR DEPLOYMENT IN THE MED AREA COMMENCING JUL 76
INDICATING THAT ADEQUATE ACCESS TO MED PORTS WILL BE A REQUIRE-
MENT AND FURTHER WELCOMED COMMENTS ON ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
BEARING ON NPW PORT ENTRY. REF B OUTLINED NPW TASK GROUP
EMPLOYMENT IN MED PORTS AND INDICATES THAT A REVIEW OF ALL
EMPLOYMENT IN MED PORTS AND INDICATES THAT A REVIEW OF ALL
SUITABLE MED PORTS FOR NPW ACCESS WAS IN PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY
AS REGARDS ITALY. REF C SPECIFIES AUTHORIZED BERTHS AND PORTS
FOR RECURRING USE BY NPW'S. REF D WAS A CNO READDRESSAL OF USDAO
ROME 141445Z SEP 74 THAT DETAILED THE HISTORY OF BERTHING RE-
QUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR SUBS IN NAPLES AS UNDERSTOOD BY THE ITN
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AND STRESSED THAT OUTSIDE OF THE 1954 BIA AS AMMENDED IN 1972

FOR HOMEPORTING RE LA MADDALENA. ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS ARE NAVY TO NAVY.

2.(C) IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS ALUSNA HAS INFORMALLY, REPEAT INFORMALLY, DISCUSSED THE IMPENDING DEPLOYMENT WITH THE ITAN. (VCNO, VADM FANTONI AND CHIEF OF R&D, NATO AFFAIRS AND NPW MATTERS, RADM FEDELE). WHILE THE ITN WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE USN IN EVERY WAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO FAVORABLY ENDORSE OUR NPW VISITS, FANTONI/FEDELE POINTED OUT THAT THE NPW TASK GROUP PRESENTS MORE OF A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A MILITARY PROBLEM (AS DO THE NPW SUBMARINE VISITS). PRESENTLY, PROCEDURES FOR NPW PORT CLEARANCES CALL FOR ALL NPW SUBMARINE VISITS TO BE FIRST STAFFED AT THE ITN LEVEL THAN PASSED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR FINAL APPROVAL. WHILE NPW SUB VISITS HAVE BECOME ALMOST ROUTINE, NOT REQUIRING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (FORLANI) TO ACTUALLY RENDER A DECISION ON EACH VISIT. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT NPW TG SURFACE VISITS WILL REACH MINISTERIAL LEVELS.

3.(C) THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED:

A. SURFACE NPW. ALUSNA WAS STRONGLY URGED TO HAVE THE EMBASSY APPROACH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) TO INFORM THEM OF THE IMPENDING DEPLOYMENT. PLANNED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MFA WILL STRESS THAT THE NPW TG IS PART OF THE NORMAL ROTATION OF SIXTHFLT SHIPS WHICH ALLOWS US TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO NATO IN THE MED. FOLLOWING THIS DEPLOYMENT ANOTHER CARRIER AND SUPPORTING SHIPS WOULD REPLACE THE NPW TG. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN TO "REQUEST" PERMISSION TO VISIT ITALIAN PORTS BUT WILL SIMPLY INFORM THE MFA THAT THE TG WILL BE IN THE MED IN THE SUMMER AND THAT PORTS PREVIOUSLY VISITED BY SIXTHFLT SHIPS WILL BE UTILIZED. IN OTHER WORDS, EMBASSY WILL TREAT THE NPW TG VISITS AS ENTIRELY NORMAL SURFACE WARSHIP VISITS.

COMMENT: NPS'S ARE PRESENTLY LIMITED TO AUGUST, LA SPEZIA, TARANTO, LA MADDALENA AND NAPLES BY REF C. IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM REF D THAT THE ITN ALSO FEELS THAT NPW VISITS ARE ALSO LIMITED TO THE ABOVE FIVE PORTS. WHILE REF B INDICATES THAT OTHER ITALIAN PORTS ARE BEING EXAMINED AS CANDIDATES FOR NPW TG VISITS, IT HAS BEEN ALUSNA'S EXPERIENCE IN ASKING FOR NPW VISITS TO PORTS OTHER THAN THE FIVE MENTIONED ABOVE THAT THE ITN WILL BALK AT HAVING TO PIT ITSELF AGAINST PORT AUTHORITIES IN THOSE CITIES WITH A HEAVY LEFTIST INFLUENCE. (GENOA IS A CASE IN POINT AND WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ALLOWED AN

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NPW VISIT TO THAT PORT). ITN REGULATIONS FOR THE ABOVE FIVE PORTS CALL FOR CLOSING THE PORT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF AN NPW VISIT TO THAT PORT). ITN REGULATIONS FOR THE ABOVE FIVE PORTS CALL FOR CLOSING THE PORT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF AN NPW TO MINIMIZE INCIDENTS WHILE THE NPW UNIT IS MANEUVERING. THESE REGS SHARPLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ANCHORAGE AND ALONGSIDE BERTH REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING FAR MORE RESTRICTIVE RULES FOR IN PORT BERTHS AS

COMPARED TO ANCHORAGES. WHILE NIMITZ WILL ALWAYS ANCHOR OUT DUE TO SIZE AND DRAFT ALUSNA BELIEVES THAT SOUTH CAROLINA AND CALIFORNIA WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNED OUTSIDE ANCHORAGES RATHER THAN ALONGSIDE BERTHING SO THAT THE LESSER REQUIREMENTS CAN BE IMPOSED ON PORT AUTHORITIES. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF PORT VISITS SUGGESTED BY REF ALUSNA WILL REQUIRE PERMISSION TO SOUND OUT ITN AND MOD ON POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS TO SUCH VISIT.

B. PUGET SOUND. THE DESTROYER TENDER PUGET SOUND WILL RELIEVE PIEDMONT IN JULY. BOTH FANTONI/FEDELE ARE AWARE THAT PUGET SOUND HAS A NUCLEAR REPAIR CAPABILITY. ALUSNA HAS EXPLAINED THAT ALL NEW TENDER CONSTRUCTION WILL INCLUDE A NUCLEAR REPAIR CAPABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING SURFACE FLEET. IT IS THE FANTONI/FEDELE VIEWPOINT THAT PUGET SOUND PRESENTS A PROBLEM SIMILAR TO THAT POSED BY GILMORE. I.E.: A POLITICAL NOT A MILITARY PROBLEM. (IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE TO DEPLOY (HOMEPORT) GILMORE AT LA MADDALENA AN AMMENDMENT TO THE 1954 BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (BIA) WAS SIGNED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF DEFENSE ADMIRAL HENKE ON AUGUST 9,1972. WHILE PARLIAMENT BECAME AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF AN AGREEMENT AND WERE BRIEFED BY THE THEN FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE LIMITED SIZE OF THE OPERATIONS THEY WERE NEVER ASKED TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT FOR BOTH TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL REASONS). THE 1972 AGREEMENT SPECIFIES THAT AN ATTACK SUBMARINE TENDER AT LA MADDALENA WILL GIVE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO FLEET UNITS. WHILE FANTONI/FEDELE FEEL THAT CONVENTIONAL SURFACE VESSELS CAN BE TENDED BY GILMORE, THEY POINT OUT THAT SURFACE NPW WOULD BE ANOTHER STORY. THEY ADMIT THAT THE GILMORE AMMENDMENT TO THE 1954 BIA IS VAGUE ENOUGH TO INCLUDE ALL UNITS OF THE SIXTHFLT AND SINCE THE WORDING OF THE AGREEMENT IS CLASSIFIED, THIS AGREEMENT WILL NEVER BECOME PUBLIC UNLESS GOI CHOOSES TO RELEASE THE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS IN PALIAMENT. FANTONI/FEDELE ARE CONCERNED THAT NAY TENDER OPS BY GILMORE TO THE NPW
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TG WILL BE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND SPARK DIFFICULT PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES THE ITN WOULD PREFER TO AVOID. TENDER OPS BY PUGET SOUND WITH CALIFORNIA OR SOUTH CAROLINA IN AUGUST BAY PRESENT SIMILAR PROBLEMS. FANTONI/FEDELE CONJECTURE THAT THIS TENDING OPERATION MAY REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 1954 BIA SIMILAR TO THAT OBTAINED FOR GILMORE. THE DANGER OF THIS IS THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT NOW TO KEEP SUCH AN AMENDMENT OUT OF PARLIAMENT, AT WHICH TIME THE OPPOSITION COULD ALSO RESURRECT THE LA MADDALENA AGREEMENT. IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PUGET SOUND TENDS ALL DESTROYER TYPES AND THUS IT CANNOT BE INFERRED THAT JUST BECAUSE SOUTH CAROLINA AND CALIFORNIA RE ALONGSIDE PUGET SOUND THAT ONLY NUCLEAR REPAIRS ARE BEING CONDUCTE. COMMENT: ALUSNA SEES THE FANTONI/FEDELE CONJECTURE AS A WORST CASE VIEWPOINT - OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA WILL GIVE US A BETTER IDEA.

4.(C) THE ABOVE CAN BE CONSTRUED AS PORTRAYING THE VIEWS OF THE ITN. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY MANNER. NOTHING IN WRITING WAS SUBMITTED OR OFFERED. OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL DO LIKEWISE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PRESENT CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ROUTINE IN ALL THE MINISTRIES PRECLUDE A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE UNTIL AFTER 6 JANUARY. GDS 81 UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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